

ENGLANDS PETITION TO THEIR KING.

O R

An humble *Petition* of the distressed and al-
most destroyed Subjects of ENGLAND,
To the Kings most Excellent Majesty.


Containing (in the judgement of the wise) the
very sense of all the true-hearted of the Kingdom;
but because the way to the Kings eare is stopt, it was sent
to LONDON, and there printed, as it is
briefly declared to the Reader.

EXOD. 10. 7.

Knowest thou not yet that our Canaan is destroyed?

Printed on the day of *Jacobs* Trouble, and to make
way (in hope) for its deliverance out of it.

To the obvious not desired Reader.


OOD Friend, We would have you know this Petition was intended onely for his Majesties view, but because plain dealing is seldome well taken, and his Majestie so guarded from the Requests of his Subjects, we are therefore forced to submit it to your common view, and to turne it out, in hope his Majesty may light of one Copie, and seriously reade it, and lay to heart the distresse of the miserable: if you censure it as the worke of some few discontented persons, Know you it is the sense of our part of the Kingdom, and if you will promise us freedome and hopes of successe, we'll soone returne it you with the hands of 1000000. If you condemne us for speaking too plainly, Know that misery makes men forget good manners; and dying men use not complements; We are in the case of the Lepers, If we sit still we perish, therefore we will move in the way of hope, and goe in to the King, though it be not according to Law, and if we perish we perish. Yet know, we will come farre short of the plainnesse of better persons and times, Sam. 12. 7. 1. King. 18. 18. &c. &c. &c.

To the Kings most Excellent Majesty;

*The humble Petition of Your distressed and almost
destroyed Subjects of Your Kingdome of England.*

READ SOVERAIGNE, Its a double griefe to
Dour soules, that we should be constrained to beg for
our lives at Your hands, who are bound by the Law
of God and nature, and by Your Oath, to preserve
them, and that we should be forced to entreat You
to spare our estates, liberties, and bloud, whose ho-
nour and strength depends so much on these our enjoyments: But
extremity prevaieth and drives us to You, and casteth us here pro-
strate at the feet of Your Majestic: And let not Your Majesty be of-
fended, if we speake more plainly then usually becometh us; for ne-
cessitie hath no law: It is for our lives and more, and therefore blame
us not to speake; our friends, our wives, our children, our wants, our
dangers, our Countrey, our bloud, do all pierce our eares and hearts
with their daily & dolefull cries; Oh that our requests could finde
as quick accessse to Yours! Surely its impossible Your Majesty should
be ignorant of the dolefull condition Your two Kingdomes are in;
Doe You not know that our houses are plundered, and the fruit of
our long labours taken from us; that men who have heretofore re-
lieved hundreds of the poore, have not left them a bed to lye on,
food to sustain them, or a house to put their heads in? And the poore
they were wont to relieve, are forced to become Souldiers, that they
may rob us by authoritie. Know You not how many thousand di-
stressed soules cry to God day & night, in their anguish and misery,
while they see You the Father of their Countrey, having no com-
passion on them? Oh! where is now Your Majesties ancient cle-
mency? You were wont if we lost our estates by Pyrates, or but a
house by fire, to grant Your gracious Letters Patents for our re-
lief; but now Your Souldiers rob us of all, and burne our houses

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ou; But we beseech You call not this bearing Arms against You;
 may be against your will; but if any of your now followers be more
 pective of your royall authoritie established by Law, more truely
 nder of your person and honour then we; then let not God prosper
 or proceedings, but cause us to fall before them, and give us up into
 eir hands. We are fallen upon by the cruell, and because we will
 ot dye quietly & without resistance, we are accused as traytors and
 emies to your Majesty. We beseech your Majesty, consider in the
 esence of God, if your own Father & King had run upon you with
 s drawne sword, whether would You have suffered death without
 istance, or have taken the sword *pro tempore* out of his hand? and
 t neither be averse to his honour & person, or his propriety in his
 rapon. Doth not nature teach us the preservation of our selves?
 ll not the eyewinke without deliberation? and the smallest worne
 ne back, if you tread on it? And beside nature, we have frequent
 sidents in sacred Writ, for even more then defensive resistance of
 anscendent Monarcke, 1 Sam. 14. 44, 45. 1 Sam. 23. 11, 13. 2 King.
 0. 12, 13. 2 Chro. 26. 18. 20. Dan. 6. 14. &c. But if all this were no-
 ng, yet we know your Majesty hath passed an act for the continu-
 e of this Parliament: and sure that Act must needs meane a Par-
 nment with its power and authoritie, and not the meere name and
 asse of a Parliament; Its not onely that they shall stay together
 ondon, and doe nothing, or no more then another Court; but that
 y continue your chiefe Counsell, your chiefe Court, and have
 e legislative power, which are your Parliaments peculiar proper-
 e. And if your Majesty hath enacted the cō inuance of a reall Par-
 nment in its power, who seeth not that You have thereby joynd
 n them your royall authority, though not your person? Doth not
 r Majesty in your Expresses oft mention your selfe a part of the
 jament? and that the head without which the body cannot live?
 is the Parliament valid without your authoritie? therefore if your
 esty may and have withdrawne from them your roya'l authori-
 hen you may and have broke your own Lawes; which we dare
 udge after so many solemne Protestations to maintaine and rule
 e known Lawes: wherefore we hope your Majesty must needs

discerne that we fight not against You, but for your known established authority in Parliament. And we hope your Majesty will not deny them to be your entire Parliament; for is the Act recalled whereby they were established? if not, how can they cease to be your Parliament? neither let the fault be laid on part of them; for we all know the *Major* part hath the authority of the whole, and if it were the *Minor* part, why did not, or doth not the *Major* over-vote them? And we beseech your Majesty blame us not to thinke our Religion and all lyes at the stake, while we looke back by what a traine Popery had been almost brought upon us by that party, and see them still the chiefe in favour, and when so many Papists *English* and forreigne are now in Armes against us, and know no one Papist in the Land that is not zealous in the cause. Wonder not, *Dread Sovereigne*, if we hardly beleewe that those come now to save us, who in 88. and the Powder Plott, would so cruelly have destroyed us: that Papist should be most zealous in fighting for the Protestant Religion, and Delinquents (proceeded against in Parliament,) should stand for the priviledges and Laws of the Parliament; that oppressing Monopolists should fight for the Subjects liberties, seem all riddles and paradoxes to us. Blame us not, we beseech You, to feare, while we see no contradiction appeare to Mounseigneur *de Chesne* his booke, sold openly for many yeares, not in *Paris* onely, but in *London*, and read a Court, which records your Majesties Letter to the Pope, promising to venture Crowne and ail to unite us to *Rome* againe.

Dread Sovereigne, many Princes have gone astray through strength of temptation, and after have been happy in repenting and returning. Oh that the *Lord* would make it your case, and glorifie his mercy on You and us, in making knowne to You the thing concerning our peace, and not his Justice in hardning You to destruction: that it may never be read in our Chronicle by the generations to come, that *England* had a Prince who lived and dyed in seeking the desolation of his people, and the Church of God. Your Majesty knoweth there is a King & a Judge above You; before whom You must very shortly stand and give account of your Government; We desire You in the presence of that God, to thinke, and thinke seriously, and thinke

gaine how sad it will be, to have all this bloud charged on your
 oule ; Can your Majesty thinke of this with comfort when You are
 dying ? Can these Counsellors that now put you on, then bring You
 safely off ? Your Majesty may despise what we say, and cast away
 our Petition, and tread downe your poore people, and judge us your
 enemies, because we tell you the truth, and speake as dying men in
 the sorrow of our soules ; but You cannot so put by Divine Justice,
 or quiet conscience at the last : As true as the Lord liveth, your Ma-
 jestie will one day know that Blasphemers, Papists, and flatterers, are
 not your friends ; but plaine dealers, who doe assure You, the way
 You take, tends to the utter ruine and destruction of your Selfe and
 Kingdome. And can *your heart endure*, or can *your hands be strong*, in
 the day the Lord will reckon with You for His people committed to
 your charge ? Oh ! suppose You now heard the bloud of your peo-
 ple already spilt, crying in your eares, and saw the many thousands
 yet living a life worse then death, lying in their sorrows at your feet,
 crying for pittie, help, oh King help, or we lose our liberties, Lawes,
 lives and Religion ; help that your Selfe and Royall posteritie, be
 not Princes of an impoverished desolate Nation : help as ever You
 would have God help You in the day of death and judgement, when
 your Selfe shall cry for helpe and pittie ; help that deliverance come
 by some other way, while You & your Fathers house are destroyed.
 The Lord God of our hopes, who hath for our sinnes most justly af-
 flicted us in You, give your Majesty a discerning eye, a holy and ten-
 der heart, to yeeld to the Petition of your distressed Subjects, *To re-
 turne to and concurre with your Parliament*, that God and man may for-
 get your mistakings, and You may be the blessedest Prince that ever
 reigned in our Land, the terrour of your reall enemies, the joy of
 your people, and the glory of posteritie ; Such shall be the daily and
 heartie prayers of

*Your MAJESTIES loyall (how ever esteem-
 ed) Subjects, &c.*

F I N I S .